What's the Difference?

Objective: Students will identify that animals have adaptations that help them survive.

Students will analyze how adaptations help animals: do they provide the means for animals to have certain diets, live during all seasons, or live in particular habitats.

Background: Animals adapt in certain ways such as protective coloration or speed to escape their predators or thick fur for the winter. Some adaptations are claws, sharp teeth, good hearing, night vision, and smell.

Procedure: Cut out the pictures in the packet and divide the class into two groups one that studies the adaptations of the prey animals and the other studies the adaptations of the predators. Have each group list the adaptations that they see on the pictures and any others that they have studied or remember. What are some adaptations that help the animals hunt, hide, find food, or that protects the animal. What are some adaptations that help the animals survive during the winter. Have the students decide whether the animal lives on the prairie, in the forest, or in the cave. Have the students discuss what adaptations help them survive in the particular environment (prairie, forest, and cave) where they live. Could they live anywhere?

> Once the groups have discussed their animals, have them; in a competition like form, discuss the adaptations. Have one group state an adaptation and have the other group try to counter it with another adaptation. For example the predators name an adaptation they have that helps them hunt, and the prey animals counter it with something that will help them survive. Or the prey animals name an adaptation that helps them run or hide and the predators try to name an adaptation they have that will help them catch the prey animal. Discuss as a class how the adaptations are useful.

